



Department of Development Services  
Planning Division  
Meeting Minutes of the  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
(Approved)

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010**

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**Commissioners Present**

Sandra Bobowski  
Temple Shannon  
David Blatt  
John Lupo, Jr.  
Edwin Vargas, Jr.  
Gerry Pleasent, Alternate

**Staff Present**

Roger J. O'Brien  
Don Chapman  
Jillian Hockenberry

**Commissioners Absent**

David Jorgensen, Alternate

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Chairperson Bobowski called the special meeting to order. She appointed Commissioner Pleasent to fill the vacancy.

**I. Public Workshop on the Five-Year Capitol Budget Plan**

Roger O'Brien discussed the Capitol Budget Plan process. He stated that this year's Plan was formatted differently in that it only focuses on new projects that will begin within the next five years. He stated that a committee has been formed to manage the previously approved Capitol projects that are still open. He discussed how the appropriation schedule would be approved in one or two year increments rather than a total of five.

Commissioner Bobowski confirmed that the Planning and Zoning Commission would be recommending to the Council that the total appropriation for this year indicated in the Plan be approved for each line item.

Mr. O'Brien stated that James Keeney had come up with an accounting document indicating all of the money spent and remaining for previously approved Capitol projects.

Mr. O'Brien discussed each element of the Plan including the public facilities, parks and recreation, infrastructure, development, and educational facilities projects, proposed amount to be appropriated and the descriptions. He stated that this would be the first year that CDBG or Community Development Block Grant projects will be included in the Capitol Budget Plan. He also discussed how certain projects in the Capitol Budget take part in implementing One City, One Plan.

Mr. O'Brien stated that following the adoption of One City, One Plan, he recommends that the Commission revisit the Capitol Budget Plan to prepare for the following year.

Mr. O'Brien suggested having Alex Nardone of the Board of Education come to speak about their plans for educational facilities within the next five years so the Commission can have a better understanding of the proposed costs.

Commissioner Bobowski asked if anyone from the public had comments about the Capitol Budget Plan.

Luis Caban, a resident and Executive Director of SINA, questioned the process of who authorizes the projects and appropriations in the Plan and what happens when priorities change throughout those five years. He asked what commitments there are for future expenditures for proposed projects in the Plan.

Mr. O'Brien stated that they are trying to focus on that issue by proposing appropriation for total costs of projects even if it will be spent over a number of years. By doing this, a project is committed to being completed rather than getting appropriated year by year to continue a project. Mr. Caban then asked what happens to funds that have been appropriated for projects that may change in priority. Mr. O'Brien stated that there is a list of proposed projects to close out from prior years that should be looked at by the neighborhoods in order to reevaluate those approved budgets.

Linda Bayer, of Hartford 2000, distributed a handout to the Commission that contained comments and priorities regarding the Capitol Budget Plan. She asked if it was possible that the Commission defer their decision to allow more time for public comment. She then stated that the NRZ's main priority is neighborhood projects and that their concern is that there are not many of them in the Plan. She stated that although there may not be funds available for neighborhood projects such as streetscapes in the next year, she would still like to see them implemented within the Plan rather than not at all.

Mr. O'Brien agreed that certain neighborhood projects appear to be inconsistent within the Plan. He stated that it is important to pay attention to the list of active projects and projects to be closed list in order to determine what still needs to be recognized. He also stated that it is hard to implement all of the projects in a 5-year plan rather than in a 10-year plan. He suggested having a meeting with the NRZ's and the Planning and Zoning Commission after One City, One Plan gets adopted to come up with a Capital Improvement Plan that will implement projects in the POCD.

David Morin, a resident and member of Friends of Pope Park, noted some errors within the Plan regarding Pope Park improvement projects. He also questioned the funding listed under Pope Commons in the Infrastructure section.

Bernie Michel, the chair of the Asylum Hill NRZ, voiced his concern with the short notice that was given for the public to comment on the Plan. He stated that there are goals and projects that

were priorities of the NRZ and therefore implemented into One City, One Plan but not into the Capitol Budget Plan.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission will recommend that the Plan be forwarded to the Mayor and then it will be sent to City Council so there is still enough time to continue comment on the Plan. He stated that main focus should be projects that are ready to be implemented in year one of the Plan. He suggested that the list of active projects and proposed projects to be closed out be put on the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda each quarter and reviewed with the communities so that everyone can work together.

Ms. Bayer asked how it is decided that design money be put towards certain projects. Mr. O'Brien stated that there should be a line item designated in the Plan for design concepts because it is not clear where those funds come from.

Mr. Morin asked if the list of active projects and proposed projects to be closed could be forwarded to members of the audience. Mr. O'Brien stated that when he reviews the list and separates the projects by neighborhood, he would forward it in order to keep the community informed.

Mr. Michel questioned whom to contact from the Board of Education to make sure that improvements to West Middle School be put into the Plan. Mr. O'Brien stated that he would contact Alex Nardone from the Board of Education to find out more information about their master plan.

## **II. Consideration of Plan for forwarding to Mayor Perez**

On a motion made by Commissioner Vargas, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Lupo, Jr., the Capitol Budget Plan was endorsed and forwarded to Mayor Perez.

## **III. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

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Roger J. O'Brien, Secretary/Director